



SENATOR JESSE KIEHL

Sponsor Statement
Senate Bill 253

Clean Ship Fuel

Alaskans burn low-sulfur fuel. Ferries, trucks, and commercial fishing boats burn ultra-low-sulfur diesel. Cars and skiffs and snowmachines burn even lower-sulfur gasoline. The world's largest ships, however, are still allowed to burn heavy fuel oil, which contains much higher levels of sulfur and other pollutants. When ships burning HFO visit multiple Alaska ports the sulfur, metals, and sooty black carbon impact the places we fish, play, gather food, and raise our families.

Alaska has a long tradition of leading the world in clean, safe shipping. The first cruise ships plugged in to shore power here, shutting down their generators in port. In the early 2000's, cruise ships bringing trade to Alaska modernized their sewage treatment systems—sometimes pioneering new technologies. In 2015 the North American Emissions Control Area required ships to either burn low-sulfur fuel or stop putting sulfurous gases into our air.

Many large ships voluntarily burn only clean fuel in Alaska waters. By putting the same standard those ships choose into place for all—the same fuels Alaskans must use—we reduce the amount of sulfur, soot, and other pollutants discharged to Alaska's environment. SB 253 lets the Department of Environmental Conservation exempt a vessel that captures enough of its exhaust pollution the discharge to Alaska's environment is no greater than if the ship burned clean fuel. This keeps our rules flexible while protecting Alaskans and the places we cherish.

Maritime industries are and have long been a crucial part of Alaska's culture and economy. SB 253 is the key next step in doing shipping right.